

Minutes of Old Marston Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 1st May 2012

Present:-

Charlie Haynes, Chairman (CH)
Duncan Hatfield, Vice Chairman (DH)
Peter Williams (PW)
Michael O'Keefe (MO'K)
Michael Cadd (MC)
Peter Cox (PC)
Roy Jones (RJ)
Angie Tiwari (AT)
Peter Sarac (PS)
Pat Hall (PH)
Nils Bartleet (NB)
Barrie Lewis (BL)

Caroline Duffy, Clerk (CD)
Cllr Mary Clarkson
4 members of the public

1 Apologies for Absence

None

2 Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting

The Chairman confirmed the previous Minutes had been distributed and read by all. There being no corrections, the Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the last annual parish meeting.

3 Matters Arising from Minutes

None

4 Chairman's Report

Charlie Haynes thanked all Parish Councillors for their support and hard work this year.

- a. Planning – The Bricklayers Arms is the only major development. The Parish Council has remained opposed to houses of multiple occupation (HMOs) and turning houses into flats.
- b. Boults Lane recreation ground– work is still going on behind the scenes. Several meetings have taken place alongside the football club. A smaller single storey pavilion is now proposed. £75,000 has been allocated towards this project from Parish Council funds, with a proposal to borrow £200,000 from the Public Loans Board. It is planned to add new equipment to the ground as part of this project. Several trees were pruned and some removed as part of a risk assessment programme this year. New dog signs are in place. A dog show during the year was a great success.
- c. Mortimer Hall Recreation ground – the new climbing frame has been well used and the park continues to be very popular.
- d. Queen's Diamond Jubilee – an event is planned at the Red Lion PH with funding from the Parish Council towards a beacon and fireworks.
- e. Finance - The balances remain healthy. An additional £10,000 was secured through the City Council accepting the role the Parish facilities provide. Funding this year has provided the cemetery with a new fence and gates; a new floor and kitchen for Mortimer Hall; a new computer for the clerk as well as continuing support for local organisations through grants. Insurance has been extended to provide more comprehensive cover.

- f. Rachel Slatford has revised and completed the accounts so they are the best they have ever been. Gemma has stepped in to help when there was no clerk. Special thanks to them.
- g. While the finances are healthy, it is important to work to the budget this year as much of the funding is ring fenced for the new pavilion.
- h. Burial Ground – maintenance work has been completed. A special thanks to Mrs Cox and her helpers for maintaining the ground in the best ever condition. The Parish Council agreed during the year not to pre-sell plots.
- i. Highways – There are increasing issues with parking around the Parish. Back Lane has been cleared with other work on-going to footpaths and roads. A new footpath has been installed leading to the cemetery.
- j. North East Area Committee has ceased being replaced by the NE Area Forum. Little contact with this has taken place.
- k. Parish Council bulletins have been discontinued.
- l. Allotments are being well used and the Allotments Association plan to extend their water system. The footpath to Court Farm Place is not yet complete – Action CD to follow up.
- m. Website – goes from strength to strength as a community resource. Special thanks to Cllr Duncan Hatfield.
- n. Library – despite threatened closure, this is still active with volunteers helping out. A 50 year anniversary celebration is planned.
- o. We lost 2 parish councillors during the year, and welcomed 2 new co-opted members – Michael O’Keefe and Peter Williamson.
- p. The clerk resigned and a new clerk started in March. A letter from the old clerk’s solicitor has been addressed and the Parish Council will take advice from the solicitor appointed on other employment issues.
- q. Thanks to Oxford City Council staff who attended on several occasions. Also to City and County Councillors.
- r. Thanks to Parish Councillors who sit on other committees.
- s. Thanks to my wife for her support of my role.

5 Finance. Clerk’s accounts.

See attached sheet prepared by Rachel Slatford. The report was unanimously ratified by the Parish Council – proposed by PCllr CH. PCllr PC asked why the rate of interest was so low – agreed to address this by investing £100,000 in another account. Action: CD

6 AGM correspondence – none.

7 Any Other Business

None.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm

8 Date of Next Meeting – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to follow after a short break at 7.30pm 1 May 2012